

THEATRE ROYAL
WORKINGTON &
DEAN SCHOOL

*A Cockermouth Amateur Dramatic Society
& Workington Playgoers Production*



TOMMY'S
STORY

Written and Directed by Beryl Ballance

A Heritage Funded WW1 Commemoration Drama Set in West Cumbria

Dean School | Friday 10th April & Saturday 11th April at 7.30pm
Theatre Royal | Tuesday 21st April - Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm

Please Note:
*This production
is unsuitable for
children under 12*



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£ Half Million Refurbishment!

Local groups are celebrating following news that the Big Lottery Fund is to invest a massive £364,736 to help Workington Playgoers Club refurbish the town's historic and iconic Theatre Royal.

The grant completes the funding package for the £553,548 project and paves the way for a new partnership between the Playgoers Club and Soundwave, the Workington-based music charity which works with more than 3,000 children and young musicians every year. A total of 23 other local groups are also backing the project, which is expected to achieve a threefold increase in the use of the venue by community groups.

The announcement marks the culmination of three years' hard work by volunteers from the Workington Playgoers Club and its partner organisations. The project will involve doubling the size of the existing foyer and coffee bar; improving access for disabled users; and reconfiguring buildings to the rear of the theatre to provide a pioneering recording studio and live room to be used by Soundwave. There will also be a workshop space, a youth reception space and a shop front entrance

The Big Lottery Fund's grant is to be matched by major contributions from the Monument Trust, WREN, J. Paul Getty Junior Trust, Francis C. Scott Charitable Trust, Sir John Fisher Foundation, with smaller contributions from the Pollitzer and Hadfield Trusts and from Councillor Joe Holliday.

Chairman of Workington, Peter Inglis said: "This exciting development will secure the future of our lovely old theatre for generations to come and will ensure that it can be used by a much wider cross-section of the local community."

Stella Kanu, Director (CEO) of Soundwave added: "Having our own dedicated recording studio alongside specialist spaces for our workshops is priceless! It will allow us to enrich the lives of many more young people from Workington and beyond."

The project has been designed by Carlisle-based Architects Plus and a number of local businesses are to be involved throughout the construction phase. The Playgoers Club has been ably supported in the project from the outset by James Watson, a Penrith-based regeneration specialist who also helped oversee an earlier £85,000 programme of energy saving measures at the theatre, resulting in a 60% reduction in the building's carbon footprint.

Tender documentation for the project is currently being prepared and it is expected that the building work will begin in July.

Director's Notes

Since joining CADS in 1986, I have played numerous parts, from Alice in "Hobson's Choice" to the title role in "Educating Rita" and Sarah in "Accrington Pals". I always had a yearning to direct, but never had the confidence.

In 2009 I eventually plucked up the courage to direct John Godber's "April in Paris" which was runner-up for Best Play in the 2009 NODA Drama Awards.

About eighteen months ago, I decided I wanted to direct something about World War 1. I spoke to the Playgoers Chair who agreed that it would be a good idea for our two societies to join forces for this special commemoration production.

I invented the story and characters, then wrote the script for "Tommy" Story. I enjoyed writing the play nearly as much as I have enjoyed directing it. The characters are fictitious. Although I have used Cumbrian names, they bear no relation to anyone living or dead. Some incidents really did happen and I owe my knowledge of these events to my Stage Manager, Jackie Burd, who did most of the research for the play. I have tried to make the drama as authentic as possible but I hope you will allow me some artistic licence, as I am not a historian.

Jackie also put in a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and we were lucky enough to be given nearly £10,000 for the project. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work on this grant application.

I would also like to thank Mike Ames, our Musical Director. Mike has worked tirelessly, with abundant enthusiasm, giving his time to arrange the music, which I'm sure you will all enjoy.

This has been a massive undertaking for me, and it would not have been possible without the help of the Workington Playgoers, who have pulled the production together with their technical skills and expertise.

I'd like to thank the Cumbria Army cadets, who have been very helpful and showed my soldiers how to become soldiers. Last but not least, I thank my wonderful cast. Some are very experienced, some less so. In fact some of them have never acted before, but I bet you won't be able to tell. Without all these people, "Tommy's Story" would not have come about. I give them all my heartfelt thanks.

Beryl Ballance

Cast

British Soldiers

Tommy.....	Marc Goodwin
Harry.....	Jonathan McDowell
George.....	Mark Stilwell
Johnny.....	Shaun Palmer
Billy.....	Jack Sewell

Women At Home

Sarah.....	Joan Hetherington
Mary Anne.....	Gwen Irving
Ella.....	Marlene Johnston
Alice.....	Ruth Ellen
Meg.....	Jacqui Walker

British Army Officers

Sergeant Major Hoskins.....	Geoffrey Hall
Colonel.....	Laurie Mansfield
Captain.....	Morgan Sweeney

German Soldiers

Fritz.....	Matthew Last
Hans.....	Lewis Hill

Cameo Roles

Tommy in 1939.....	Geoffrey Hall
Tommy in 2015.....	Shaun Palmer
Nanna Maureen.....	Anne Chambers

Voiceovers

Chamberlain's Speech & The Soldier Attack.....	Morgan Sweeney
Remembrance & Dulce et Decorum Est.....	
Who's For the Game? & The Deserter.....	Jane Sharkey
The Christmas Truce & Anthem for Doomed Youth.....	Gill Scholey



The Music Hall, Carol Singing & The Railway Station

Music Hall Compere.....	Stewart Grant
Vesta Tilley.....	Jill Roper
My Old Man.....	Marlene Johnston
Polly Perkins.....	Matthew Last

Live Band

Mike Ames.....	Piano Keyboard
Sarah Ames.....	French Horn and Flugel Horn
Susan Ellis.....	Clarinet
Angie Hunter-Brown.....	Flute and Tenor Horn
Stephen Hunter-Brown.....	Bass Guitar and Oboe
Robin Melville.....	Drums
Mary-Lou Miller.....	Viola
Scott Miller.....	Violin
Jim Porthouse.....	Trumpet and Cornet
Michael Sloan.....	Trombone and Euphonium
Gill Greenhalgh.....	Music Hall Choreographer

Chorus & Other Characters

Jacqui Walker, Kate Archer and Laurie Mansfield	
Father Fitzpatrick.....	Tony Magorrian
Tilley.....	Jane Sharkey
Peggy Asquith.....	Gill Scholey

Production Team

Musical Director Mike Ames
Stage Manager Jackie Burd
Assistant Stage Manager Anne Chambers
Set Design and Build Ian Johnston
Geoff Brinicombe
Ian Turner
Simon Guilford
Lighting Design & Special Effects Ian Johnston
Lighting Charlotte Cuthell
Wardrobe Helen Earl, Gilda Wells & Jenni Rushton
Props Anne Chambers & Props Committee
Thanks to Cockermouth Antiques for the loan of props
Written and Directed Beryl Ballance



Beryl Ballance with cast members

About 'Tommy's Story'

Cockermouth Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) have joined forces with Workington Playgoers to produce 'Tommy's Story' a Heritage Lottery-funded project to commemorate World War 1. The play has been written and directed by CADS veteran and local hairdresser Beryl Ballance.

'Tommy's Story' is set in West Cumbria, in an unnamed fictional town that is a cross between Cockermouth, Workington, Whitehaven and Maryport. Although the characters in the script are fictional, most of the incidents are authentic.

'Tommy's Story' doesn't just portray the agony of the lads at the front; it also testifies to the strength of community spirit. Many local communities could easily have been torn apart by the ravages of the war, but in fact overcame the most horrific times imaginable through the power of friendship, loyalty and love.

In 'Tommy's Story' the mothers of five British soldiers wait to hear their sons' fate. These young men have been dazzled by the idea of going off to war, fighting for their country and coming back as heroes. Four of them go very willingly; the fifth goes under duress. His pals, along with Vesta Tilley (the drag king in the travelling music hall), persuade him and many others that they should lay down their lives for King and Country. And off they go, thinking it is all a massive game.



The play is an emotional rollercoaster but deals with these events sensitively, without sensationalism.

Due to the Lottery funding, audiences can see this production free of charge. However, donations towards The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes will be gratefully received.



Future Productions



THEATRE ROYAL & SECOND STAR YOUTH THEATRE

Presents Charles Perrault's

Sleeping Beauty

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2015



PLAYGOERS
at The Moorclose Auditorium



while the Lottery Funded Refurbishment
is carried out at The Theatre Royal

July 2015

Bouncers By John Godber

October 2015

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Box Office: 01900 602122

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